

Message Text

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ORIGIN ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 DHA-02 SCA-01 INSE-00 CIAE-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 015424

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: EXTENDED INDOCHINA REFUGEE PROGRAM: PAROLE
CRITERIA

REF: BANGKOK 1205

1. WE ARE CONCERNED THAT EMBASSY'S LATEST ESTIMATES ARE
SUBSTANTIALLY ABOVE NUMBER OF SPACES LIKELY TO BE
ALLOTTED BANGKOK UNDER EXPANDED PROGRAM. WE WILL REQUIRE
1000-1500 SPACES FOR OTHER POSTS AND, AS PRESENTED BY
DEPARTMENT, PROGRAM CALLS FOR RESERVE NUMBERS (ABOUT 2000)
TO MEET FUTURE URGENT NEEDS OVER LONGER TERM. THUS,
EMBASSY CANNOT EXPECT MORE THAN 7500-8000 NUMBERS AT BEST
AND WE MUST BE ENTIRELY REALISTIC IN OUR UNDERSTANDING
THAT, EVEN IF WE ARE SUCCESSFUL IN OBTAINING AUTHORITY
FOR AN EXTENDED PAROLE PROGRAM, THIS WILL BE THE END AND
THERE WILL BE NO MORE NUMBERS AFTER THAT.

2. DEPARTMENT IN NO SENSE WISHES TO DISCOURAGE EMBASSY'S
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REPORTING OF FACTUAL SITUATION WHICH YOU FACE THERE. WE

MUST RECOGNIZE, HOWEVER, THAT, IF CURRENT CRITERIA NET US 11,349 REFUGEES FROM THAILAND, THOSE CRITERIA ARE GOING TO HAVE TO BE DEFINED MORE RESTRICTIVELY. WE RELY ON YOUR GUIDANCE IN THAT RESPECT KEEPING IN MIND THAT, WHILE

THERE ARE MANY WE WOULD LIKE TO TAKE, OUR GOAL MUST BE TO CONCENTRATE ON THOSE TO WHOM THE OBLIGATION OF THE USG IS STRONG.

3. WITH ABOVE IN MIND, WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S COMMENTS ON FOLLOWING POINTS ASAP:

A. CAN YOU PROVIDE MORE PRECISE ESTIMATE ON CAT I TYPE RELATIVES OF THOSE ON INDEFINITE DEPARTURE STATUS? IS ESTIMATE OF SEVERAL HUNDRED IN PARA 2 REFTEL REFLECTED IN CAT I TOTAL PARA 7?

B. LIMITATIONS PROPOSED ON CAT II CRITERIA REFLECT OUR CONCERN ABOUT TOTAL NUMBERS. DOES EMBASSY BELIEVE CAREFULLY DRAWN CAT III CRITERIA STILL SHOULD BE SUBORDINATED TO CLAIM OF ANY CAT II WITHOUT EXCEPTION? WHAT WOULD EMBASSY ESTIMATE FOR CAT II TOTALS UNDER MORE LIMITED CRITERIA?

C. EMBASSY'S RECOMMENDATION PARA 6 REFTEL NOT CLEAR SINCE SAME TYPE RELATIVES INCLUDED IN OUR PROPOSED CAT I CRITERIA AND OUR DEFINITION ACCOMPANYING RELATIVES. CAT I ELIGIBILITY DERIVES FROM INDOCHINESE IN UNITED STATES WHILE ACCOMPANYING RELATIVE STATUS DERIVES FROM ANOTHER REFUGEE IN BANGKOK WHO IS QUALIFIED UNDER CAT I-IV.

D. WITH RESPECT TO ESTIMATES PARA 7 REFTEL:

1) ASSUME "IMMEDIATE RELATIVE" AND "FORMER USG EMPLOYEE" CONFORM TO EMBASSY'S DEFINITION CAT I AND II. ARE ACCOMPANYING RELATIVES INCLUDED IN TOTALS WITH CAT I AND II PRINCIPALS OR IN "OTHER" COLUMN?

2) DOES VIETNAMESE TOTAL INCLUDE THAI DAM? IF SO, CONFIDENTIAL

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WE ASSUME SAME STRINGENT REQUIREMENTS BEING APPLIED AS IN CASE OF MEO. ALSO WE WONDER IF FRENCH ARE CONTINUING GIVE SPECIAL ATTENTION THIS GROUP AND WHETHER WE CAN REDUCE ESTIMATE OUR REQUIREMENTS ON THIS BASIS?

3) ARE LAO TOTALS ESTIMATED ON BASIS OF REQUIREMENTS FOR EXTENDED PROGRAM AFTER COMPLETION PRESENT LAO PROGRAM OF 3466 OR ARE THEY AN ESTIMATE OF LAO REFUGEES

PRESENTLY SEEKING ASYLUM U.S., INCLUDING THOSE TO BE
PAROLED UNDER PRESENT PROGRAM. PLEASE PROVIDE ESTIMATE
OF FORMER.

E. WHILE WE RECOGNIZE FORCE OF EMBASSY'S COMMENTS
ON APPLICATION TO LAO OF RESTRICTION OF CAT I TO RELATIVES

OF REFUGEES PAROLED INTO UNITED STATES PRIOR TO OCTOBER
31, WE WONDER IF RESTRICTED AVAILABILITY OF NUMBERS DO NOT
FORCE US TO HOLD NEAR TERM. WE COULD RESTRICT CAT I FOR
LAO TO RELATIVES OF REFUGEES PAROLED INTO UNITED STATES
UNDER REGULAR LAO PROGRAM, BUT LOGIC OF THIS WOULD
PROBABLY NOT BE APPARENT TO REFUGEES AND WE WOULD BE
REQUIRED TO QUALIFY ADDITIONAL NUMBERS OF LAO AS CAT I
WITH NO CONVINCING EXPLANATION TO SIMILAR VIETNAMESE AND
CAMBODIAN RELATIVE APPLICANTS FOR APPARENT DISCRIMINATION.
IT SHOULD BE KEPT IN MIND THAT LAO LEAVING UNDER EITHER
REGULAR OR EXTENDED PROGRAM COULD STILL TAKE WITH THEM
FAMILY MEMBERS QUALIFYING AS ACCOMPANYING RELATIVES AND
WE BELIEVE THIS IS BEST WE CAN DO.

4. GIVEN DIFFICULTY OF TAKING ALL THOSE QUALIFIED
BY CLAIM ON USG ATTENTION, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE MAKE
BEST POSSIBLE USE OTHER COUNTRIES REFUGEE PROGRAMS
CONCENTRATING US EFFORTS ONLY ON THOSE TOWARDS WHOM USG
HAS SPECIAL OBLIGATION. GERMANS CURRENTLY ABLE TAKE
ABOUT 700 VIETNAMESE (AND, AT LEAST FOR THE PRESENT,
ONLY VIETNAMESE) AND FRENCH CONTINUE A SUBSTANTIAL EFFORT.
URGE EMBASSY MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH THESE EMBASSIES IN
ORDER ADJUST US PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS TO REFLECT PROGRESS
MADE BY OTHERS. WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S THOUGHT
ON DEGREE TO WHICH THESE VARIOUS EFFORTS MIGHT BE
COORDINATED TO ACHIEVE MOST EFFECTIVE COMMON GOAL. IN
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MEANTIME, WE WILL CONTINUE TO ATTEMPT TO STIMULATE FURTHER
EFFORTS BY OTHER THIRD COUNTRIES.

5. IN LIGHT OF FOREGOING REQUEST EMBASSY RESUBMIT
ASAP RECOMMENDATIONS ON CRITERIA TAILORED TO PROBABLE
AVAILABILITIES OF PAROLE NUMBERS. SISCO

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